

What is EMS?

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Let's be honest. What is the first thing you think of when you see the letters EMS? Probably, Emergency Medical Services. MARAD has incorporated a program at the James River Reserve Fleet (JRRF), Fort Eustis, Virginia, where EMS means Environmental Management System.

MARAD was accepted to a national EMS training and implementation program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA). The two-year EPA/AAPA-sponsored program was initiated to assist the maritime industry in implementing EMS. The program concluded in March, where AAPA hosted a graduation ceremony for 14 participants including MARAD. Some notable graduates included the Port of NY/NJ, the Port of Houston, and the Port of New Orleans.

What is EMS?

EMS is a continual cycle of planning, implementing, evaluating and improving the activities, operations and services of an organization to reduce impacts on the environment.

The EMS framework is based upon an internationally recognized standard called ISO 14001, which is a sister standard to the well-known quality system called ISO 9000. Both standards are third-party verifiable, which enhances MARAD's credibility with the public.

EMS Focus Areas at the JRRF

- Hazardous Waste Management
- Fuel Management
- On-Shore Operations
- Off-Shore Vessel Operations

JRRF employees from both the Fleet Support Group (FSG) and the Fleet Operations Group (FOG), known as the core team, have been key participants in the planning and implementation phases of the EMS effort.

Costs Savings

Recycling is being managed better as a result of being identified as a "significant aspect" or, in layman's terms, a "significant risk." Other savings include enhanced training for oil spill response, which translates into more efficient responses that cost less in equipment and time. JRRF will continue to realize additional savings in 2006.

EMS costs savings cited by other major participants in the EPA/AAPA initiative have been reduced insurance rates for the Port of Houston, saving \$2 million, and reduced hazardous waste disposal costs for the Port of Long Beach, saving \$1 million.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is a strong supporter of EMS, and provides regulatory flexibilities to participating agencies and industry located within the state. Thanks to this program, JRRF is in a better position to be recognized as an environmental leader in the state. The reserve fleet also has the option of becoming third-party ISO 14001 certified, being recognized by Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program (an elite program for EMS organizations in Virginia) and/or being recognized by EPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program (a national EMS recognition program).



Left to Right: Wayne Hancock, Herbert Haywood, Martin Walker, Charlotte Mingee, not shown: Willie Barnes and Art Fritz, members of the JRRF Fleet Support Group.

Next Steps

MARAD will continue to track implementation of the EMS in the JRRF with a view toward further identification and quantification of program improvements and economic benefits. In fiscal years 2007 to 2009, MARAD hopes to roll out the EMS program to the other reserve fleets and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. In so doing, MARAD expects to follow a "train-the-trainer" approach based upon the lessons learned from the JRRF pilot.

Please direct any questions on EMS and its progress in the JRRF to MARAD's Environmental Management Representatives Richard Corley at richard.corley@dot.gov and Willie Barnes at willie.barnes@dot.gov.